IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims to have the status and content indicated in the following listing of claims, wherein any cancellation of claims is made *without prejudice*.

1. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~ A method for the preparation of a vaccine composition comprising recombinant or synthetic gelatin as a stabiliser, said method comprising the steps of ~~taking a measure so that~~

 reducing the water content of the vaccine composition ~~remains~~ to be below 2 ~~wt. %~~ weight percent ~~in order to prevent the recombinant gelatin from crystallisation~~ and

 maintaining the water content below 2 weight percent for at least 2 years ~~during the lifetime of the composition~~.

2. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 1 in which the recombinant gelatin is homodisperse.

3. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 1 in which the molecular weight of the recombinant gelatin is in a range selected from the group consisting of between 2.5 and 50 kD, ~~preferably~~ between 2.5 and 30 kD, and ~~more preferably~~ between 2.5 and 15 kD.

4. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 1 in which the molecular weight of the recombinant gelatin is in a range selected from the group consisting of between 5 and 10 kD, ~~preferably~~ between 6 and 8 kD.

5. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein any two of the amino acid sequences of the peptides constituting said recombinant or synthetic gelatin when optimally aligned by the program GAP or BESTFIT using

default parameters, share at least 80 percent sequence identity ~~are essentially similar~~.

6. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 1 in which the lifetime is the time from production to the moment of use of the composition.

7. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 1 ~~which~~ wherein the lifetime is the period of storage of the composition.

8. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 1 ~~which~~ wherein the water content is maintained below 2 weight percent to prevent crystallization of the recombinant or synthetic gelatin ~~at least 3 months, or at least 6 months, or at least one year or~~ for ~~at least 2 years, or~~ at least 7 years.

9. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 1 ~~in which the measure that is taken so that~~ wherein maintaining the water content ~~remains~~ below 2 ~~wt. %~~ weight percent during the lifetime of the vaccine composition comprises ~~is~~ providing the composition in a sufficiently moisture-tight container.

10. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 1 ~~in which the measure that is taken so that~~ wherein maintaining the water content ~~remains~~ below 2 ~~wt. %~~ weight percent during the lifetime of the vaccine composition comprises ~~is~~ providing the composition in a sufficiently air-tight container.

11. (Withdrawn – currently amended) ~~Vaccine~~ A vaccine composition comprising recombinant gelatin as a stabiliser, wherein said composition has a water content of less than 2 ~~wt. %~~ weight percent.

12. (Withdrawn – currently amended) ~~Vaccine~~ A vaccine composition according to claim 11 which is at least 3 months old.

13. (Currently amended) Method for the preparation of a vaccine composition comprising recombinant or synthetic gelatin as a stabiliser, said method comprising the steps of (a) producing recombinant or synthetic ~~bi-modal or multi-modal~~ gelatin, (b) adding said recombinant or synthetic gelatin to a vaccine ~~composition as stabilizer~~ to provide the vaccine composition, and (c) lyophilizing ~~said~~ the vaccine ~~composition, whereby~~ composition with sufficient drying to prevent crystallisation of the recombinant gelatin ~~is prevented~~ during the lifetime of the vaccine composition.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Withdrawn – currently amended) ~~Vaccine~~ A vaccine composition according to claim ~~14~~ 11, wherein any two of the amino acid sequences of the peptides constituting said recombinant or synthetic gelatin when optimally aligned by the program GAP or BESTFIT using default parameters, share at least 80 percent sequence identity ~~are essentially similar~~.

16. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~ A method for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one therapeutic protein and further comprising recombinant or synthetic gelatin as a stabiliser, said method comprising the steps ~~of taking a measure so that~~

reducing the water content of the pharmaceutical composition to be ~~remains~~ below 2 ~~wt. %~~ weight percent ~~in order to prevent the recombinant gelatin from crystallisation during the lifetime of the composition~~ and

maintaining the water content below 2 weight percent for at least two years.

17. (Withdrawn – currently amended) ~~Pharmaceutical~~ A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one therapeutic protein and further comprising recombinant or synthetic gelatin as a stabiliser, wherein said composition has a water content of less than 2 ~~wt. %~~ weight percent.

18. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 2 in which the molecular weight of the recombinant gelatin is in a range selected from the group consisting of between 2.5 and 50 kD, ~~preferably~~ between 2.5 and 30 kD, and ~~more preferably~~ between 2.5 and 15 kD.

19. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 2 in which the molecular weight of the recombinant gelatin is in a range selected from the group consisting of between 5 and 10 kD, ~~preferably~~ between 6 and 8 kD.

20. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 2, wherein any two of the amino acid sequences of the peptides constituting said recombinant or synthetic gelatin when optimally aligned by the program GAP or BESTFIT using default parameters, share at least 80 percent sequence identity ~~are essentially similar~~.